

cannot be viewed as merely an express train into the welfare state. I hope my colleagues will join me as cosponsors of this legislation.

**SUPPORT FOR AN INDEPENDENT
AND DEMOCRATIC KOSOVO**

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 13, 2007

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Madam Speaker, I have just returned from official travel as Chairman of the Helsinki Commission to several locations in Europe and the Middle East. One stop was Kosovo, which is presently high on the international agenda.

As we all know, the Special Envoy for the UN Secretary-General, former Finnish President Maarti Ahtisaari, has submitted a comprehensive proposal for settling the status of Kosovo. If adopted, the proposal would end the eight years of limbo in which Kosovo has found itself since the NATO intervention ended a long period of brutality and repression by Serbian authorities under the leadership of Slobodan Milosevic. Nevertheless, some countries represented on the UN Security Council have problems with the Ahtisaari plan, and Russian opposition, based at least in part on issues having little if anything to do with Kosovo and the Balkans, would doom action at the United Nations. Last week's G-8 summit failed to break the impasse within the international community.

During my stay in Kosovo, I was thoroughly briefed by the U.S. Office in Pristina, led by Tina Kaidanow, as well as by Brigadier General Douglas Earhart of the 29th Infantry Division, who commands U.S. forces in Kosovo as well as multinational task force located in the southeast portion of Kosovo. The head of the OSCE Mission in Kosovo, German Ambassador Werner Wnendt, provided the perspective of one of the international missions in the field. I also had the opportunity to meet the Kosovo Prime Minister, the Minister for Communities and Returns and representatives of the Kosovo "Unity Team." I traveled to Mitrovica where I also met representatives of the Serb community, and I visited areas at different locations where housing has been built to accommodate the return of those Serbs and Roma displaced by violence.

Based on my observations, I support the Ahtisaari proposal. It provides for independence for Kosovo, which I believe can be justified on grounds of what happened in Kosovo under Serbian rule as well as the right of self-determination, a right included in the Helsinki Final Act. The overwhelming majority of the people of Kosovo want independence, and the United Nations made it a credible possibility in Security Council Resolution 1244, adopted at the end of the Kosovo conflict in 1999.

At the same time, and perhaps more important, the Ahtisaari proposal contains provisions regarding the decentralization of powers to Serb-majority municipalities, numerous human rights protections for ethnic communities, and the protection of religious and cultural heritage sites so important to the Serb community. If implemented, these provisions offer a good possibility for the Serb and other non-Albanian communities to survive in what would be a multi-ethnic Kosovo. Independence would be

supervised by the international community, to ensure both a smooth transfer of authority and full implementation of the proposal.

As Chairman of the Helsinki Commission, I remain naturally concerned about the human rights situation in Kosovo. My priority is a Kosovo where human rights and fundamental freedoms are respected, and where democracy, tolerance and the rule of law are established, regardless of the course or outcome of deliberations on Kosovo's status. Such a Kosovo does not yet exist; many problems remain. I do believe, however, that in a situation where no answers are easily found the Ahtisaari plan has the best potential to achieve these goals, and I will work to ensure that the Helsinki Commission encourages their achievement even after status is determined.

I wish to conclude my remarks, Madam Speaker, by announcing my intention to cosponsor House Resolution 309, expressing the sense of the House that the United States should support independence for Kosovo. Some of the concerns expressed in an alternative piece of legislation, House Resolution 445, are ones that I share, but continued delay on this issue helps nobody on the ground. The Ahtisaari proposal, in addition to addressing status, provides a means for securing the return and sustainability of the Serb and other ethnic communities in Kosovo, and I believe the people of the region would be best served by trying to make its provisions a reality.

**HONORING MSGT RICHARD J.
BRULE UPON HIS RETIREMENT**

HON. LOIS CAPPS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 13, 2007

Mrs. CAPPS. Madam Speaker, today I rise to pay tribute to MSgt Richard J. Brule, as he retires from the United States Air Force. MSgt Brule hails from Colorado Springs, CO and enlisted in the USAF on May 14th, 1987. During his tenure, he has consistently shown leadership and motivational skills in training other personnel in various skills.

MSgt. Brule began his Air Force career as an experienced mechanic and while at Nellis A1C, helped to establish a "Self Help" bay by building, supplying and mounting a tool shadow board in the minor maintenance section. This project enabled local organizations to perform their own minor maintenance which helped to clear the work order backlog, often returning vehicles to service within the same day. Continuing his exemplary service, Brule was selected as "Airman of the Quarter" while stationed at RAF Bentwaters in the UK. During operation Desert Storm, Sergeant Brule played a key role in preparing and deploying 120 vehicles to the AOR.

Shortly after arriving at Aviano AFB in Italy in 1992, Brule was promoted to the rank of Staff Sergeant. His mechanical knowledge and management skills led to his selection as NCOIC of the Privately Owned Vehicle Inspection Center. In 1996, SSgt Brule was assigned to F.E. Warren AFB in Wyoming and was selected as Noncommissioned Officer in Charge of the 90th Security Forces Squadron Vehicle Repair Station, where he was responsible for the maintenance of 125 rapid response vehi-

cles. Within a year of arriving at Sembach Annex, Germany, SSgt Brule was again promoted, this time to Technical Sergeant, where he assumed a great deal of responsibility. Finally, in 2006, MSgt Brule arrived at the 1st Detachment, 345th Training Squadron at Naval Base Ventura County, in my Congressional District. MSgt. Brule is currently teaching the gas phase and pipeline.

It is my pleasure to submit this to the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, recognizing the character and dedication of MSgt Brule, upon his retirement.

**HONORING CHIEF OF POLICE DAN
MONTGOMERY**

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 13, 2007

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Madam Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge the retirement of Chief of Police Dan Montgomery, of Westminster, Colorado.

Chief Montgomery's retirement was news in my district, and I believe it is fitting to honor his public service in the Denver metropolitan area for nearly four decades. Chief Montgomery has served as the Chief of Police in Westminster for more than 24 years. Such a life-long commitment to public safety is deserving of special recognition.

Dan Montgomery is passionate about protecting the public and realized early in his life that his calling was to serve in the police force. From his first job as a campus police officer, to his leadership as a police chief for one of Colorado's fastest growing suburban communities, Chief Montgomery has demonstrated a strong commitment to upholding law and order in our society. As a field officer, he will be remembered for his work on the Leeora Rose Looney case in Lakewood, Colorado, in 1971. Chief Montgomery leaves a professional legacy as a law enforcement official who always "supported his troops."

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join with me in expressing our gratitude to Police Chief Montgomery, and others in the law enforcement community just like him, for their steadfast commitment to justice and public safety. We also recognize Chief Dan Montgomery's leadership and fortitude. I am also proud to acknowledge Police Chief Montgomery's accomplishments as noted in the following article published by the Westminster Window on May 24, 2007.

POLICE CHIEF SET TO CAP CAREER

(By Rachel Ceccarelli)

Westminster Police Chief Dan Montgomery says he is ready to finish his 45-year career in law enforcement.

Montgomery will retire as Chief of Police on June 1, and Deputy Chief Lee Birk will take the lead.

"It just dawned on me one day that I have been married to my wife Bonnie for 46 years and been a police officer for 45," Montgomery said. "It was just time."

Montgomery says he decided it was time to retire and devote more time to his wife, grown children and granddaughter.

Nonetheless, he plans to continue doing some part-time police consulting.

Montgomery has been the Westminster Police Chief for more than 24 years.